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## STATISTICS OF THE AMERICAN NAVY.

In Swank's *Report on Statistics of the American and Foreign Iron Trades, for 1888*, there is published a brief article on "The New American Navy." The greater part of it is here reprinted:—

All the vessels for the new navy, except five partly completed iron monitors, are or will be built of steel. After long delay the completion of these monitors has recently been authorized. Their keels were laid in 1874 and 1875. They are armored and double-turreted. Each monitor is to have four 10-inch breech-loading rifled guns in its main battery, and several rapid-fire and Gatling guns in its secondary battery.

Name of vessel.	Type.	Condition.	Displace- ment. Tons.	Main Battery.	Thickness of side armor.
Texas .....	Belted.....	Prep'ring ways	6,300	2 12-inch..... 6 6-inch.....	12 inches.
Maine.....	Belted.....	Building .....	6,648	4 10-inch..... 6 6-inch.....	11 inches.
Chicago .....	Protected cruiser.	Commissioned.	4,500	4 8-inch..... 8 6-inch..... 2 5-inch.....	Unarmored.
Boston.....	Protected cruiser.	Commissioned.	3,189	2 8-inch..... 6 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Atlanta.....	Protected cruiser.	Commissioned.	3,189	2 8-inch..... 6 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Dolphin.....	Dispatch vessel...	Commissioned.	1,485	1 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Newark.....	Protected cruiser.	Building .....	4,083	12 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Charleston.....	Protected cruiser.	Launched.....	3,730	2 8-inch..... 6 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Baltimore.....	Protected cruiser.	Launched.....	4,413	4 8-inch..... 6 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Philadelphia...	Protected cruiser.	Building .....	4,324	12 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
San Francisco.	Protected cruiser.	Building .....	4,083	12 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Yorktown.....	Gunboat .....	Built .....	1,700	6 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Petrel.....	Gunboat .....	Launched .....	890	4 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Concord.....	Gunboat.....	Building.....	1,700	6 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Bennington...	Gunboat .....	Building .....	1,700	6 6-inch.....	Unarmored.
Vesuvius .....	Dynamite cruiser.	Built .....	725	3 15-inch dy- namite guns.	Unarmored.
First-class tor- pedo boat.	Torpedo boat.....	Building .....	99	8 automobile torpedoes.	Unarmored.

The reader of these pages will be interested in a list and description of the new naval vessels completed during the last five years or now building, which we compile in part from the Report of the Secretary of the Navy, made December 1, 1888. The guns of the main batteries referred to in the table are all breech-loading rifles. Besides the main batteries, each vessel will be equipped with a secondary battery, which in nearly every ship will consist of several small rapid-fire guns, from 6-pounders down, revolving cannon, and from two to four Gatling guns.

In addition to the seventeen vessels named in the table and the five monitors, the building of a coast-defence vessel of 4000 tons' displacement, to be provided with armor 16 inches thick, was authorized by Act of March 3, 1887. The plans and specifications for this vessel have been completed, and bids for its construction were opened on April 3, 1889.

The Act approved September 7, 1888, provides for two steel cruisers of 3000 tons' displacement each, one steel cruiser of 5300 tons, one armored cruiser of 7500 tons, three gunboats or cruisers of not over 2000 tons each, and one steel practice vessel of 800 tons. The plans for these vessels are now being prepared.

Five other vessels were ordered by Congress in the Act approved March 2, 1889, and the Secretary of the Navy has directed the proper officials to prepare plans for their construction. The new vessels include one armored steel cruising monitor, of not less than 3000 tons' displacement, to cost, exclusive of armament, not more than \$1,500,000; one cruiser of the *Vesuvius* type, to cost not more than \$450,000; two steel cruisers or gunboats of the most approved type, of 800 to 1200 tons' displacement, to cost, in the aggregate, exclusive of armament, not more than \$700,000; and one ram for harbor defence.

When all the vessels enumerated above are completed, the United States will have a navy of 36 iron and steel vessels, all, excepting the five monitors, built on the most approved modern plans. This fleet will consist of 18 cruisers (including two dynamite cruisers and a cruising monitor), one despatch vessel, six gunboats, one torpedo boat, seven coast or harbor defence vessels (including the five monitors), two line-of-battle ships, and one training ship. Eleven ships of the fleet, including the monitors and two of the cruisers, will be armor-clad.

Besides all the above vessels the Government owns 13 single-turreted iron monitors, now out of repair. They were built during the civil war. Their sides are protected with armor five inches thick, and their turrets with armor ten and eleven inches thick. Each monitor is armed with two 15-inch smooth-bore guns, but with no secondary batteries. It is stated that these 13 monitors might be made available for coast defence if thoroughly repaired.

The other vessels of what may be termed the old navy consisted, at the close of 1888, of 8 unarmored iron and steel vessels, built in the years between 1844 and 1876, 28 wooden steam vessels, built in the years between 1854 and 1883, 10 wooden sailing vessels, built in the years between 1797 and 1862 (including the old *Constitution*, built in 1797), and 11 steam tugs of wood and iron. In March, 1889, three of the wooden steamers, the *Trenton*, *Vandalia*, and *Nipsic*, were driven ashore or on the reefs, in a hurricane at Apia, in the Samoan Islands. The first two were wrecked, but the *Nipsic* has since been floated.